

What is claimed is:

1. An input device comprising:

a ring-shaped resistor including:

a pair of first electrodes provided along a first direction; and

5 a pair of second electrodes provided along a second direction orthogonal to the first direction;

a ring-shaped conductor facing the resistor across a clearance; and

a controller, connected to the pair of first electrodes, the pair of second electrodes and the conductor, for successively applying a voltage between the first electrodes
10 and between the second electrodes when the resistor and the conductor contact each other,

wherein the controller determines an angle which a position of contact between the resistor and the conductor makes from one of:

(A) a resultant vector of a vector that is directed in the first direction and detected based on a voltage output from the conductor when the voltage is applied between
15 the first electrodes and a vector that is directed in the second direction and detected based on a voltage output from the conductor when the voltage is applied between the second electrodes; and

(B) a mean value of an angle, which is obtained from the voltage output from the conductor when the voltage is applied between the first electrodes, and an angle,
20 which is obtained from the voltage output from the conductor when the voltage is applied between the second electrodes.

2. The input device of claim 1, wherein the controller applies a voltage with polarity of the voltage along one of the pair of first electrodes and the pair of second electrodes
25 reversed for detecting again the angle which the contact position between the resistor and the conductor makes.

3. The input device of claim 1, further comprising:

an operating member which presses one of the resistor and the conductor for effecting a contact between the resistor and the conductor.

5 4. The input device of claim 3, wherein the operating member includes a projection for pressing the one of the resistor and the conductor.

5. A method for detecting a position of contact between a ring-shaped resistor and a ring-shaped conductor of an input device including the resistor and the conductor facing the resistor across a clearance, the method comprising the steps of:

successively applying a voltage in a first direction of the resistor and in a second direction of the resistor that is orthogonal to the first direction when the resistor and the conductor contact each other; and

15 determining an angle which the contact position between the resistor and the conductor makes from one of:

(A) a resultant vector of a vector that is directed in the first direction and detected based on a voltage output from the conductor when the voltage is applied in the first direction and a vector that is directed in the second direction and detected based on a voltage output from the conductor when the voltage is applied in the second direction; and

20 (B) a mean value of an angle, which is obtained from the voltage output from the conductor when the voltage is applied in the first direction, and an angle, which is obtained from the voltage output from the conductor when the voltage is applied in the second direction.